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## Labor and Politics.

When, a few days ago, The Wash-  
ington Herald expressed a doubt as to  
whether, in his alleged promise of the  
labor vote to the Democratic party, Mr.  
Gompers, of the American Federation of  
Labor, could "deliver the goods," we  
took it for granted that he had made  
some such promise at Denver, after his  
failure to secure the insertion of the in-  
junction plank he wanted in the platform  
at the Chicago convention. We seriously  
doubted that Mr. Gompers had been fool-  
ish enough to make such a promise as  
that alleged.

Now, he himself specifically denies any  
such promise in an article which he has  
prepared for the August number of the  
Federationist, the newspaper organ of  
the American Federation of Labor. In  
this article he pays his respects to the  
managers of the Republican campaign,  
who are wrongly trying to make capital  
out of the statements that he will try to  
deliver the labor vote to the Democratic  
candidate at the coming election. He dis-  
avows having made any such statement,  
and declares that he realizes fully that  
each man, whether a member of a union  
or not, must be allowed the fullest free-  
dom in voting as he pleases. And he also  
takes occasion to say that it must not be  
forgotten that each union workman is,  
in a measure, responsible in his use of  
the franchise not only to himself, but  
to his great body of fellow-workmen.

Mr. Gompers thinks, evidently, that  
the union laborer having the interest of  
his fellows at heart should vote the  
Democratic or Republican ticket, not  
merely because he is a Democrat or a Re-  
publican, but should vote for the party  
which promises to give labor, as a whole,  
the fairest chance. Naturally, Mr.  
Gompers goes on to say that in his opin-  
ion the Republican party is the enemy  
of labor and the Democratic party its  
friend.

Undoubtedly, the Democrats at Denver  
paid more heed to the demands of labor  
than did the Republican party at Chi-  
cago, but whether the laboring man will  
aid or injure his cause by voting the  
ticket is a question not for the American  
Federation to promise, or for its officers  
to decide, but for each individual work-  
man to answer for himself.

The issues of this campaign are issues  
to be decided on knowledge of conditions  
and hopes for the future. And in no  
case is there to be any suggestion of  
class arrayed against class. It is simply  
the individual voting for what he deems  
to be the right.

Shad and Catfish.

Our very esteemed correspondent, and  
especially good friend, the Atlanta Con-  
stitution, has fallen into a curious er-  
ror concerning the attitude of The Wash-  
ington Herald toward the star-spangled  
shad of the placid Potomac and the  
humble but not ignominious catfish. The  
Constitution avers that Washingtonians,  
old-timers and comelletes, really prefer  
catfish to shad, and that all stories to  
the contrary are not fashioned in sincerity  
or founded on fact.

The Constitution is well meaning, we  
have no doubt. It has an inordinate fond-  
ness for catfish, of course. This is natu-  
ral and in perfect keeping with its  
Southern environment. It finds it hard  
to understand that Washingtonians can  
possibly love and revere any other fish  
to the extent that the Constitution ad-  
mires catfish. It is like this: In the  
summer and the very early fall, when  
Congress is away, when the legations are  
closed, and Washington is at home with  
itself alone, we like to lay aside our glad  
rags, as it were, and give ourselves over  
to the enjoyment of a restful and com-  
fortable existence. We then rejoice to  
live the simple life; to get close to nature  
and harken to her voice of happiness and  
her soothing songs. It is then we uel-  
come the catfish season. It is then we  
warring statesmen and diplomatic fencing.  
It is the "Home, Sweet Home,"  
period of the year with us, and during  
its continuance the lowly catfish is our  
true friend, cheering us along the way

and fitting our digestive apparatus for  
the more strenuous days to come.  
And after the winter's snows are  
melted, just as the first faint hint of  
spring tugs the air, when the Capital  
is all aglow with brilliancy and light,  
when the President is in our midst, and  
the personal representatives of the Kings,  
princes, and potentates of earth must  
be entertained as befits their exalted rank  
and stations, we invoke the aid of the  
regal shad—"the star-spangled shad"—to  
assist us in our entertaining and our  
hospitality. And right royally does that  
aristocrat of the waters respond to our  
wont!

When this latterly described dashing,  
slashing, glittering season is upon us  
here in Wonderful Washington the cat-  
fish, with that admirable modesty so  
characteristic of him, lies away to other  
climes, and bides a while in patience  
until such time as his reappearance is  
scheduled and his benign activity is once  
more indicated!

Neither fish, plebeian or patrician, in-  
trudes upon the other. Both are per-  
fectly well bred, albeit their stations in  
life are far apart. Each has poise, char-  
acter, and abundant common sense. And  
that's why both are so dear—we might  
say, so impartially dear—to the hearts  
of all true Washingtonians.

"Gen. Luke Wright looks like a Demo-  
crat," says a contemporary. Not much.  
He is holding down one of the fattest  
jobs under the government.

## Religious Advertising.

We do not quite see the force of the  
objections registered by the New York  
Sun against the new method of publicity  
advocated by the American Unitarian  
Association.

It has devised a practical scheme of  
publishing items of news concerning the  
association in thirty-two daily and twen-  
ty-one weekly newspapers of the coun-  
try. This press matter is run as adver-  
tising, and paid for. The New York Sun,  
which admits that the scheme is prac-  
ticable, and displays considerable enter-  
prise, still asks, "Is it commendable and  
worthy?" and questions whether it would  
not shock Dr. Channing, and whether  
such a practice can possibly have the in-  
dorsement of the Rev. Edward Everett  
Hale.

We do not at all see the force of any  
objections urged against the wide-awake  
plan of the American Unitarian Associa-  
tion. In common with most enterprises,  
it is plain that the association realizes  
that wide publicity makes for the great-  
est success, and it knows, too, that no  
device for publicity excels the columns  
of the daily and weekly newspapers. We  
regard the plan not only as a marked  
tribute to the good sense of the directors  
of the American Unitarian Association,  
but also as a wise and sane tribute to  
the better class of American journalism.  
The advertising axiom, that if you have  
a good thing it is necessary to let the  
public know it, certainly should hold  
good in religious as well as commercial  
matters. The religious organization  
which indulges in judicious advertising  
is almost certain to be able at the end  
of the year to show marked growth and  
astounding results.

A Republican contemporary finds fault  
with Mr. Bryan's grammar. Some one is  
forever criticizing Mr. Roosevelt along  
the same line, but it only adds to his  
popularity.

## Betting on the Election.

A good deal has been said, particularly  
by the Republican press, in the last few  
days of the odds offered against Mr.  
Bryan's election by Lloyd's Insurance  
Company. It has been made to appear  
that this company, which, it is well  
known, insures against nearly every sort  
of loss imaginable, was offering odds  
ranging from 1 to 5 to 1 against the elec-  
tion of Mr. Bryan.

As a matter of fact, investigation shows  
that Lloyd's Agency is offering nothing  
like the stated odds on the election. All  
the company is doing, or has offered to  
do, is to insure any business man against  
a possible loss resulting from the elec-  
tion of Mr. Bryan—a very different thing.  
On this subject, the Philadelphia Rec-  
ord has this to say:

"The company, which gets information from New  
York papers, saw the chance of getting hold of some  
American money by selling insurance against com-  
mercial disaster resulting from the election of Mr.  
Bryan. It began with rates corresponding with  
odds of 10 to 1, and no sooner than the information  
of this fact abroad the New York agency of Lloyd's,  
of London, was swamped by offers from the West  
and Middle West to underwrite all that sort of in-  
surance that could be laid. For the American people  
are not imbeciles, and Mr. Bryan would not  
have been nominated if his election would mean  
danger to the business of the country."

This statement of the real purpose of  
Lloyd's makes it plain that the insurance  
offered provides for two contingencies.  
One is the election of Mr. Bryan, and  
the other is election of loss caused by Mr.  
Bryan's election. Both of these facts  
would have to be established before any  
money could be collected on behalf of the  
premium paid. We have, happily, just  
passed through a period of business de-  
pression, caused by a disastrous panic.  
Undoubtedly, this depression has cost var-  
ious industrial enterprises large sums of  
money, and yet we imagine it would be  
difficult for those who have lost those  
sums to prove that the political party in  
power was responsible for the losses. And  
this in spite of the fact that such news-  
papers as the Rochester Union and Ad-  
vertiser declare "the Republican party  
has made its bed, politically, and must  
lie in it, but it has also made a very  
uncomfortable bed for the American peo-  
ple by the wicked extravagances in public  
expenditure."

The thought of the country seems to be  
agreed that it is folly to assert that the  
election of Mr. Bryan would bring about  
any business troubles or depression. It  
seems to be thoroughly understood that  
the panic is over; that a particularly  
bountiful crop in all parts of the coun-  
try is bound to make times good again,  
and to set this country once more on the  
high road to prosperity. The mere fact  
that this man or that is to be placed at  
the head of affairs for the next four  
years will not suffice, we think, to defeat  
the ends of Providence, which has worked  
so beneficently in our behalf.

lars. It may be necessary to scratch  
around and find another Mark Hanna,  
after all.

"South Carolina contains the largest un-  
kissed population in the world," says the  
Charleston News and Courier. Onions, or  
just ugly?

What has become of "Gas" Addicks?

The way the Turks behave is enough to  
drive the Kurds away from the paths of  
righteousness. This style of paragraph-  
ing has also been known to drive people  
in the same direction.

A Maine man, in an attempt to kill his  
wife, accidentally cut his own throat and  
died almost instantly. Now, if the man  
only had an accident policy in his wife's  
favor, what a perfectly lovely little story  
this would be.

The "original baseball man" is dead.  
The "original" umpire passed away long  
ago, but nobody cares to recall his name.

Gov. Vardaman's paper, "The Issue,"  
doesn't seem to be making much head-  
way. Nobody seems inclined to dispute  
with it, and unless somebody does, it is  
hard to see how it is to be made a go.

"An English dentist has rendered a bill  
of \$1500 for fixing a woman's mouth,"  
says the Richmond News Leader. He  
may have equipped it with a time lock.

The brims of men's hats this summer  
are very narrow. This leaves room on  
the sidewalk for both sexes.

The mayor of Timpan, Tex., arises to  
explain that his salary is not one dollar  
a year, but one dollar a month. His honor  
has received entirely too much advertis-  
ing for nothing.

One paper says Mr. John Temple  
Graves will run for President, another  
says he will run for Vice President. Why  
not both?

Mr. Bryan says he will invite the  
Vice President to attend all Cabinet meet-  
ings, in case the Democrats win this fall.  
Plainly, Mr. Bryan believes the Vice Pres-  
ident should be useful as well as orna-  
mental.

If the Republican party wanted to be  
absolutely candid, would it not officially  
notify Mr. Roosevelt of Mr. Taft's nomi-  
nation, and let it go at that?

A kind-hearted paragraph has raised  
Mr. Roosevelt's pay from \$1 to \$2 per  
word for those African hunt experiences.  
Nevertheless, we suspect Mr. Roosevelt  
will appreciate what he really does get.

Something over a thousand candidates  
are out for the legislature in Illinois. We  
wonder if it will be possible to find one  
person with an unblemished character  
in that State after the elections are pulled  
off.

"Your men are noble, but your women-  
bah," says the Princess Lwoff Barlagh,  
however she is! This is rather the re-  
verse of the usual foreign view-point,  
however.

An Omaha judge has enjoined a wom-  
an from talking over the back fence,"  
says the Toledo Blade. Still, a woman  
can hardly be expected to talk under  
the fence, or through the fence, can she?

In order to be consistent, and make  
itself popular at the same time, the So-  
ciety for the Suppression of Unnecessary  
Noises might commit suicide.

If Sir Thomas Lipton looks as fierce in  
his soldier clothes as his newspaper pic-  
tures indicate, he should be as terrible  
before the enemy as an entire regiment.

Another sign of returning prosperity:  
The silk hosiery mills of Connecticut  
have increased their output.

Succeeds at Failure.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

Mr. Kern has twice failed to carry In-  
diana for Bryan and twice failed to carry  
Indiana for himself. He should scorn to  
succeed where Mr. Bryan did not.

## A Hit for Every Head.

VOL. II. NO. 8.

WASHINGTON, JULY 25, 1908.

TWO CENTS.

## EVERY SATURDAY.

Our Motto: If you see it in The Big  
Stick, it isn't necessarily so.

## DOG-DAY DRIVE.

Long day, isn't it? Of course. Every-  
body knows it.

Yes, it's hot enough for us. Who  
said it wasn't?

Ben says yes? For a day or two?

Yes. We belong to the work-  
class. What of it?

Talk about it? Maybe. Bryan?

Maybe. No, haven't got any idea  
about it at this stage.

Yes, we're having some rain. Ide-  
as to have more? Hope so. Farm-  
ers need it, don't they?

Think August will be as hot as  
July? Hotter, I'd say. Don't know.  
Nobody knows. No, we are not ex-  
pecting a frost.

Yes, it's pretty dull here. But  
Washington isn't the only place on  
earth that's dull. Who ever heard of  
the dog days being truly anywhere,  
except at the seashore?

Any more fool questions? No!  
Then adieu. The Stick's tired  
talking about the weather and pol-  
itics. Nothing in either. Plenty of  
time to think when the dog days  
are over. Give us a rest.

## SOME FAMOUS SAYINGS

## OF SOME FAMOUS MEN.

"Keep off the grass," by Mr.  
Styler.

"Taft and the world Tafts with  
you," by Theodore Burton.

"Weep, and you weep alone," by  
Joseph B. Foraker.

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness,"  
by Turner Wickham.

"I long to have my pent-up Utica  
behind," by James Sherman.

"My soul's in arms and eager for  
the fray," by Elmer Dyer.

"Wherever there's smoke there's  
fire," by Joseph G. Cannon.

"The ride is an adjunct to the  
pen," by Theodore Roosevelt.

"Pain would I climb, but that I  
fear to fall," by W. J. Bryan.

"With such advice as yours how  
can I go wrong?" William Howard  
Taft.

"The wind is tempered to the  
shore candidate," by John W.  
Kern.

## CAPE MAY ECHOES.

Edgar D. Shaw, who has been in  
our midst, has returned to Wash-  
ington.

Cuno H. Rudolph, president of  
the Washington Board of Trade,  
was a recent guest of Miss Hot  
Dodge.

One of the pleasant evening  
diversions of this resort is watching  
the lights of Rehoboth Beach, some  
miles away.

Read Ringling's Digest to-morrow.

## A LITTLE NONSENSE.

## BY WAY OF VARIETY.

The farm girl heard a rattler's whirr,  
and was startled and  
The town girl explained to her its  
genus and species,  
The town girl should have uttered  
screams, and not the country miss.  
But episodes in life, it seems, oft ter-  
minate like this.

The boy with the bent pin fished away,  
but couldn't get a bite.  
The man with hooks in fine array pulled  
fish in left and right.  
The tale I tell contrary is to all set  
forms, I know.  
But all I have to say is this: It some-  
times happens so.

## As to a Friend.

"He considers himself, I'm told, a very  
capable man."  
"Yes; even the ice water he compounds  
is better than that concocted by any-  
body else."

## Truly Thoughtful.

"Don't step on that crust. The birds  
want it."  
"And I'm grinding it up so they can  
handle it. See?"  
The other man saw.

## Of Course.

"They say there will be no blonds in  
600 years."  
"Why not?"  
"Because the blond type is reverting  
to the brunette."

## Manlike.

The poet chaps all claim  
To err is human.  
Likewise to put the blame  
Upon a woman.

## A Skyscraper Episode.

"A coping stone just fell from the top  
floor."  
"Indeed? Telephone the first floor to  
have the street cleared."

## Nothing Operatic.

"We met brigands in Bulgaria."  
"That must have been romantic."  
"It might have been; but, as it  
happened, it wasn't. We had no tenor to  
sing a solo of greeting."

## Making Believe.

"Your wife seems to be in some  
trouble."  
"She seems to be, but she isn't. Things  
are going so well with us now that the  
best she can do is to pretend."

## BRAZIL AND AUTOS.

The Traffic Is Encouraged by the  
Government.

From the Toronto Star.

Brazil affords a notable contrast with  
Canada in the attitude of the public  
toward the automobile. In this country  
there is a constant and persistent agita-  
tion for the restraint of automobile  
traffic on rural highways; in the chief  
country of South America this sort of  
traffic is encouraged by government sub-  
vention.

The subsidy amounts to about \$1,200  
a mile to corporations or private individ-  
uals which will build roads and organize  
a service for the carrying of passenger  
and freight traffic in sections not covered  
by the federal government to states or  
municipalities performing a like service.

Not only this, but the concessionaires  
in such sections, in land which the ordi-  
nary wheeled traffic is possible the year  
round, the auto may be made to serve  
the same purpose and at less cost than  
an electric suburban line serves in parts  
of Canada.

## POLITICAL COMMENT.

The New York Globe thinks thus: Mr.  
Taft's visit to President Roosevelt to  
have his speech of acceptance O.K.'d was  
quite all right, and that the Republican  
nominee will not be moved by adverse  
criticism of his action. It says:

"The comment of this kind Mr. Taft is  
singularly oblivious. It is his habit to  
consult friends in whom he has confi-  
dence. Mr. Roosevelt and most of his  
late associates in office are his closest  
friends. They consulted him freely; he  
sees no reason why he should not have  
the benefit of their advice. He has the  
judicial temperament and training. He is  
accustomed to listening to arguments of  
counsel on more than one side. This is  
not to say that in so doing he surrenders  
his own judgment. Having undertaken  
the burden of personal responsibility he  
may be relied upon to decide for himself  
after a hearing. He had no hesitation in  
declaring for publicity of campaign funds,  
though the platform of his party rejected  
a plank promising it."

"To a man of Mr. Taft's simple and  
candid character the political danger  
of a visit to the President of the United  
States, a member of the party that has  
just nominated him, is altogether negli-  
gent. And if it loomed large before him  
he would not run away."

The New Orleans Picayune, a paper  
which has declined to support Bryan, but  
which now has changed views, says:

"As to Judge Taft, the Republican  
candidate, he is the political protégé, sole  
heir, and residuary legatee of President  
Roosevelt, who is to-day the chief rep-  
resentative of political radicalism in the  
Republican party. Mr. Roosevelt is in  
every way as radical as Mr. Bryan ever  
was, and he has shown it by adopting  
Bryan's views and by his own indecisi-  
on as to the national convention."

"If Mr. Taft inherits Roosevelt's doc-  
trines and practices in the matter of na-  
tional Republicans, and there is every rea-  
son to believe he does, particularly when  
he announces a refusal to accept the Picayune,  
that he is going straightway to  
Oyster Bay to lay his declaration of prin-  
ciples before his political guide, tutor,  
and dictator, how can any Democrat who  
is too conservative to vote for Bryan cast  
his ballot for Taft?"

The Savannah News pokes a little quiet  
fun at Mr. Taft for his move in joining  
the steam-shovelers' union, the object of  
which, it thinks, is obvious. It declares:  
"Mr. Taft is now a full-fledged union  
laborer, a fact which Chairman Hitch-  
cock will probably not permit to be  
gotten during the campaign. It seems  
that when Mr. Taft was in Panama he  
went on one of the steam shovels digging  
dirt in the canal, and pulled one or two  
levers that made the apparatus scoop up  
a shovelful of earth, and that is where  
and how he served his apprenticeship,  
and why he got his card. And under iden-  
tically similar circumstances President  
Roosevelt got his card as a steam shovel-  
er. Roosevelt seems to have developed  
into more of a steam roller man than a  
steam shoveler, as became apparent dur-  
ing the Chicago convention, and Taft may  
deem it necessary to follow him in the  
acquisition of skill in 'the line also.'"

The New York Sun thinks that most  
people will agree with what President  
Roosevelt has to say about our navy  
needs. It says:

"President Roosevelt's insistence upon  
a powerful navy is not new, and the  
great majority of his countrymen agree  
with him. What he had to say upon that  
subject in his address at the Naval War  
College was a reiteration, and it will not  
excite special comment in Europe or Asia.  
Perhaps his way of saying it will be  
criticized abroad as needlessly aggressive,  
but that is no great matter. So is the  
German Emperor's slogan to belittlement  
and picturesqueness self-assertion,  
but the world has grown used to it  
and no statesman loses any sleep over  
his challenging and minatory phrases."

The Rochester Times is of the opinion  
that Mr. Bryan is talking too much. It  
says:

"Mr. Bryan 'could not refrain' from  
making a speech to a delegation of teach-  
ers. In fact, he seems to be willing to  
talk to anybody who will listen. He  
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saying the same things so many, many  
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